

Inequalities in Chile...what about Dentistry?

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On August 24, at the University of Concepción School of Law, the book “*Desiguales. Orígenes, cambios y desafíos de la brecha social en Chile*”¹ of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was presented. As stated in the project’s website, one of its products is this book, which “contains data that quantify socio-economic inequality, a historical review from the times of the Conquest and a panorama of how we live inequality in the present. It also provides an analysis of the mechanisms that reproduce it and of the transformations that these mechanisms have experienced in the last decades” (Available at www.desiguales.org).

At the beginning, one is predisposed to hear about the inequalities in our country, but the contribution of this book is to provide numerical data about this situation. To do this, it uses various indicators in several areas, overcoming particular notions or intuitions and macroeconomic indicators.

Specifically in the area of health, this project and its book, also show how the population live and feels the health inequality, in fact, is one of the clearest and strongest perceptions. We are an unequal society, beyond the indicators, in everyday life.

Despite the above, the book does not delve into the issue of health or more specifically the social determinants of health. However, the same authors point out that health inequality is an independent and broad issue, and should be addressed in depth through another project.

In dentistry, the situation does not seem to be different, although there have been many advances in coverage at the national level, especially of the prioritized groups. But it is quite clear to all that social gaps in oral health persist. However, national indicators have not been updated in the last decade.

If a whole project and book is necessary in order to make the inequalities in health visible, perhaps a whole project and book will be necessary to detail the gaps in the oral health of our country. This should include not only the execution of epidemiological studies, but also the evaluation of the various programs that are being implemented locally and nationally in order to assess their real impacts on the unjust and avoidable differences that afflict our population.

REFERENCES.

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